

Serial No.: 09/333,806

Attorney Docket No.: 99P7652US

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,145,083. Applicants will consider filing a terminal disclaimer if allowable subject matter is indicated.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,550,968 ("Miller") in view of Shaffer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,145,083 ("Shaffer"). Applicants respectfully submit that Shaffer is commonly-assigned to the assignee of the present invention and, further has a common inventive entity. A copy of the assignment in Shaffer is enclosed. As such, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(c), the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Applicants note that the Official Action does not appear to address newly added claim 19. For reasons similar to those discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim, too, is allowable.

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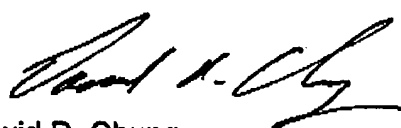
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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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